

"The Central Intelligence is not an organization that can ballyhoo its exploits or its achievement; but when failures occur, somehow or other without great publicity we learn there has been a failure on the part of Central Intelligence to accumulate the proper information. In no phase of government is knowledge so important; in no phase of government is knowledge power to the extent as it is with the Central Intelligence. By the proper handling of its affairs, by having the proper knowledge of what is going on in the world, this agency can help us win wars, of course; but I think even more than that, by proper handling of its affairs, proper efficiency, and proper activity, the Central Intelligence Agency can keep this Nation out of major wars and out of major differences and out of major disagreements with other nations, and keep us well along the road of peace which is the path our people are so anxious to pursue. So I was glad that it became my humble part to participate in helping to draft this measure."

Excerpt from speech of
Congressman Overton Brooks
of Louisiana during debate on
the bill to establish the position
of Deputy Director of Central
Intelligence, 1 April 1953.